

Message Text

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11-S
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SY-05 /064 W
----- 130739

R 230236Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9634
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 2823

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PINS KS
SUBJECT: DISCUSSIONS OF PROTESTS WITH AMERICAN
MISSIONARIES

REF: A SEOUL 2650 B SEOUL 2606

1. FOLLOWING DEMONSTRATIONS OF SEVEN AMERICAN MISSIONARIES
AT EMBASSY AND THEIR SUBSEQUENT INTERROGATIONS AND
WARNINGS BY SEOUL IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS, EMBOFF HAD
OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH SEVERAL OF THEM AS WELL AS
OTHER MISSIONARIES ON SUBJECT OF DEMONSTRATIONS IN
EMBASSY AREA.

2. EMBOFF INFORMED MISSIONARIES THAT ROKG HAD
INDICATED IT DID NOT CONSIDER EMBASSY AREA A SANCTUARY
FOR POLITICAL DEMONSTRATIONS AND THAT BOTH KOREANS
AND AMERICANS PROTESTING ON EMBASSY GROUNDS WOULD
BE SUBJECT TO KOREAN LAW AND PROSECUTION UPON
LEAVING EMBASSY AREA.
EMBOFF SUGGESTED THAT IF THEY HAD GRIEVANCES AGAINST US POLICY OR US
ATTITUDE TOWARD ROKG POLICIES, THEY SHOULD BRING
THESE TO ATTENTION OF EMBASSY OFFICERS IN
ORDERLY MANNER INSIDE EMBASSY BUILDING. MOFA
REACTION TO APRIL 16 DEMONSTRATION INDICATED THAT
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IN CASE OF RENEWED DEMONSTRATIONS EMBASSY WOULD FIND

IT DIFFICULT TO DISSUADE ROKG FROM EXPELLING THEM.

3. ON BASIS OF THESE CONVERSATIONS EMBASSY OFFICER
HAD IMPRESSION THAT EXCEPT IN CASE OF PRESENTLY
UNFORESEEN RENEWAL OF DRAMATIC AND CRUEL ACTION BY
ROKG SUCH AS NEW MASS EXECUTIONS, OR SUDDEN EXPULSIONS
OF AMERICAN MISSIONARIES, NO FURTHER DEMONSTRATIONS ON
US EMBASSY GROUNDS LIKELY IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE.
NOR DOES EMBASSY THINK THAT MERE ROKG REFUSAL OF
RENEWAL OF RESIDENCE PERMIT TO FATHER SINNOTT WOULD CAUSE
RENEWAL OF PROTESTS ON EMBASSY GROUNDS. MISSIONARIES
WERE GENERALLY APPRECIATIVE OF EMBASSY
WILLINGNESS TO LISTEN TO THEM AND TO PROVIDE CONSULAR
OFFICER TO BE PRESENT DURING INTERROGATIONS. THEY
ALSO REALIZE IN PRESENT CLIMATE EMBASSY LEVERAGE
TO PROTECT THEM DIMINISHING.
SNEIDER

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